

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

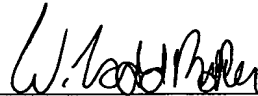
Claims 8 and 9 are currently active in this case. Non-elected claim 10 has been cancelled without prejudice. In response to the Quayle Action, claims 8 and 9 have been amended as recommended by the Examiner.

Applicants respectfully traverse the objection to the Abstract. Applicants respectfully point out that the Abstract was amended by the August 07, 2003 Preliminary Amendment to conform with U.S. patent practice. In view of the Preliminary Amendment, Applicants respectfully request that the objection be withdrawn.

Applicants acknowledge with appreciation the indication of allowable subject matter. In view of the amendments to claims 8 and 9, no further issues are believed to be outstanding. An early and favorable action is therefore respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,  
MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.



---

Eckhard H. Kuesters  
Attorney of Record  
Registration No. 28,870

Customer Number  
**22850**

Tel: (703) 413-3000  
Fax: (703) 413 -2220  
(OSMMN 06/04)

W. Todd Baker  
Registration No. 45,265